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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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14 Plaintiff,
15 v.
16 ERIC WATKINS,
17 Defendant.
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Case No. 14-cr-3661-BAS-1

**ORDER REGARDING LETTER
FROM MR. WATKINS ABOUT
HALFWAY HOUSE
PLACEMENT
(ECF No. 216)**

20 On September 20, 2016, the Court sentenced Mr. Watkins to 120 months in
21 custody followed by eight years of supervised release after he pled guilty to
22 conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children. (ECF No. 188.) Mr. Watkins has
23 now sent a letter to the Court requesting that he be allowed “at least 6 months or more
24 in a halfway house” located outside of California. (ECF No. 216.)


25 “[T]he court has no jurisdiction to select the place where the sentence will be
26 served.” *United States v. Dragna*, 746 F.2d 457, 458 (9th Cir. 1984). That authority
27 is delegated to the Bureau of Prisons. *Id.*; see also *United States v. Ceballos*, 671
28 F.3d 852, 855 (9th Cir. 2011) (“The Bureau of Prisons has the statutory authority to

1 choose the locations where prisoners serve their sentence.”). The recommendations
2 of the sentencing court to the Bureau of Prisons regarding where the sentence shall
3 be served are given only non-binding weight. *Ceballos*, 671 F.3d at 855.

4 In this case, the Court declines to make a recommendation to the Bureau of
5 Prisons regarding halfway house placement more than five years after sentencing
6 Defendant. The Bureau of Prisons is in a much better position than the Court to
7 evaluate Mr. Watkins’s request in light of his circumstances and the availability and
8 suitability of any halfway houses.

9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

10
11 **DATED: July 18, 2022**


Hon. Cynthia Bashant
United States District Judge